State; if so, whether Government are thinking of evolving any national consensus against raising of such issues in the State legislatures of other similar Government fora;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government are thinking of devolution of more powers to the State Governments which may be instrumental towards meeting the constructive aspirations and expectations of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Union Cabinet has not accepted the resolution passed by the J&K Assembly. Government is committed to continue its endeavour to evolve a broad consensus on the implementation of steps for wideranging devolution of powers to the States that leads to efficiency in administration, acceleration in development and the fullest realisation of the creative potential of all sections of our people.

Statehood for People of Hill Areas of Assam

394. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the long-aspirations of the people of Hill areas of Assam (N.C. Hills and Karbi Anglong) regarding creation of an autonomous State within the State of Assam under the provision of the Article 244(A) of the Indian Constitution;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government or proposed to be taken during the current Session;

(c) whether Government propose to take up this autonomous State issue alongwith the creation of some smaller States (Uttaranchal, Vanachal, Chhattisgarh etc.); and

(d) if so, what steps are expected from the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Government of India are aware of a demand for creation of an Autonomous State within the State of Assam.

(b) There is no proposal before the Government of India, in this behalf at present.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise, in view of answer to (c) above.